Serial No. 09/637,664 Group Art Unit: 1638

## Amendments to the Claims:

- 1. (Cancelled)
- (Previously Presented) A recombinant expression cassette comprising the polynucleotide of claim 12 operably linked to a promoter.
- OK 60 2. Outer 3. ARK 3. (Currently Amended) A host cell comprising the recombinant expression cassette polynucleotide of claim 2 12.
  - 4. (Currently Amended) A transgenic plant comprising the recombinant expression cassette polynucleotide of claim 2 12.
  - 5. (Original) The transgenic plant of claim 4, wherein said plant is a monocot.
  - 6. (Original) The transgenic plant of claim 4, wherein said plant is a dicot.
  - 7. (Previously Presented) The transgenic plant of claim 4, wherein said plant is selected from the group consisting of maize, soybean, sunflower, sorghum, canola, wheat, alfalfa, cotton, rice, barley, and millet.
  - 8. (Currently Amended) A transgenic seed from the transgenic plant of claim 4, wherein the seed comprises the recombinant expression cassette polynucleotide.
  - 9. (Currently Amended) A method of modulating the level of RAD51C in a plant, comprising:

2